

INFORMATION PAPER

DAMO-SSF
06 APR 00

SUBJECT: FAO In-Country Training Program - Poland

1. **PURPOSE:** To provide a summary of the FAO in-country training program and facilities available in Poland, in order to assist in selection and arrival time to replacement personnel. Projected in-country trainees should use the information provided to contact incumbent trainees and/or FAO supervisor as early as possible for more detailed information.

2. **FACTS:**

a. Summary of Program:

(1) Tour Length: 12-14 months.

(2) Normal Arrival/Departure dates: In-country trainee can arrive any time in July, but the trainee absolutely has to be on station before the end of the first week of August so that he or she will have time to in-process at the Academy of National Defense of the Republic of Poland (AON) before the beginning of the academic year. The academic term at AON begins at the end of the second week of August. Recommend that the in-country trainee arrive sometime in July so that there will be sufficient overlap time with the out-going in-country trainee. The academic year at AON ends in middle July; therefore, the departure time from this station can occur anytime after the middle of July.

(3) Program Description: Currently, one FAO conducts training each year. Trainees should expect to organize their own Polish tutoring as soon as they arrive. The primary vehicle used to achieve the in-country training objectives is attendance at AON in Rembertow, located nine kilometers east of Warsaw. AON is sort of the equivalent of a combination of CAS3 and CGSC, and the normal curriculum lasts two and a half years. The FAO in-country trainee will only attend one year of the course. The in-country trainee will have time for country/regional travel on weekends, holidays (two weeks for Christmas and one for Easter), before the academic year begins (depending upon the arrival time of the new FAO), and after the conclusion of the academic year.

(4) Prerequisites: The only clear requirement is a command (3/3/3) of the Polish language. Even at this level of proficiency, the new FAO will have a difficult time communicating on an academic / professional level. As such recommend that the new FAO seek additional language training upon arrival on station. There is no apparent rank prerequisite: a captain or a major could serve here, but because of the curriculum, strongly recommend a combat arms or combat support arms officer attend. There are no known family or medical restrictions.

b. POV: Recommend not shipping new / nice vehicle due to risk of theft and poor road conditions. Poland (Warsaw) has much property crime (especially auto theft). As such, a good rule of thumb is "if you cannot afford to have your car stolen, do not ship it here". If the FAO brings a car, he or she must bring appropriate documentation in order to clear customs. This documentation includes actual bill of sale (not a copy), the title, and the vehicle registration certificate from the state in which the vehicle was last registered. If the FAO chooses not to ship a POV, vehicles are readily available at various prices both from Embassy personnel and local nationals.

c. Household Goods: As stated above, the apartment that the FAO will occupy will be furnished with government property. The FAO needs to bring towels, linen, blankets, kitchenware, appliances, a stereo, or any other material that the FAO might want. Because of problems with Polish Customs, recommend that FAOs not bring antiques or any book printed prior to 1945. Incoming FAOs should coordinate with the resident FAOs for recommended items to bring as accompanied and unaccompanied baggage. A personal computer with modem is highly recommended.

(1) Perishable Goods: While most products are available here, recommend FAO bring "unique American" items in dry goods shipment (eg. ethnic foods, disposable diapers, toilet paper). If the FAO wears contact lenses, recommend that he or she bring a year's supply of the appropriate eye-care products, as these products are expensive and scarce on the local economy.

(2) Professional Books: Recommend that FAOs bring every professional book that they own, especially OAC/CAS3/CGSC books as these books will be quite useful during studies at AON.

d. Housing: Provided through US Embassy Warsaw. Housing will shift - based on the needs of the FAO. No residence is currently leased. Current lease prices in Warsaw range from USD 31,000 to USD 48,000 dependent upon family size and rank of the officer. Post Interagency Housing Board will make assignment once orders are received at the USDAO.

e. Support Facilities:

(1) Medical - The Embassy has a doctor and nurse on site. Local doctors / dentists are also available. Nearest major US facility is Landstuhl, Germany, an 18 hour drive from Warsaw. Recommend FAOs bring a year's supply of prescriptions, eliminating the need for a long trip to Germany. Complete all necessary dental work prior to leaving the states. Dental care here must either be obtained on the economy, or through evacuation to Landstuhl. Suffice to say, dental care on the economy is a little different than what most soldiers are accustomed to receiving.

(2) Dependent Schooling - There is an American School (K-12) here in Warsaw. DOD should pay for dependents' attendance there.

(3) PX/Commissary - The Embassy operates a very small commissary/PX. Prices are high (there is about a 50% markup), and the selection is limited. Use your dry goods allowance.

(4) Mailroom - APO services here have ended. The embassy continues to operate a mailroom, but FAOs will not be able to send packages from this mailroom. Outgoing packages must be sent via the Polish postal system.

(5) Language Instruction Available. Tutoring is available at the embassy (for spouses as well) at a rate of ~USD 8/hour. There are also local tutors for hire.

f. Rating Chain:

Rater - FAO Program Manager, Europe, HQDA DAMO-SSF
Senior Rater - Defense and Army Attaché

g. FAOs In Training / Programmed:

MAJ Jeffry Klein	CM,88	9907-0007
CPT Randy Masten	AV,91	0007-0107
CPT Terry Anderson	MI,91	0107-0207
CPT David Knight	MI,92	0207-0307

h. Address:

(1) Embassy Mail – American Embassy-Warsaw
Attn: USDAO
Department of State
Washington, DC 20521-5010

(2) Embassy Street - American Embassy

Al. Ujazdowskie 29/31
00-540 Warsaw
POLAND

(3) Residence Mail – (None at present time)

(4) Message - USDAO Warsaw PL

h. Phone:

(1) Office – Voice 011-48-22-625-7602

(2) Office – Fax 011-48-22-625-2760

(3) FAO Residence – (None at present time)

3. Additional Information:

a. Bring OAC/CAS3/CGSC materials.

b. FAOs should bring complete array of military uniforms. Uniform for class is Class Bs.

b. FAO trainee MUST OBTAIN A POLISH VISA prior to travel to Warsaw.

c. Regional Travel Priorities:

(1) Priority one: Germany, Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria.

(2) Priority two: France, Belgium, Italy, Croatia, Slovakia.

(3) Priority three: Spain, Denmark, Croatia, Bosnia, Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Netherlands.

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